



Our Children's Earth Foundation | 100 First Street, Suite 100-367, San Francisco, CA 94105

NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 9, 2004

Contact:

Charlene Schachter, OCE, 415.264.1841
Scott Kuhn, Communities for a Better Environment, 323.691.2106

SOUTH COAST AIR DISTRICT NAMES RECIPIENTS OF \$1 MILLION DOLLAR FUND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS REQUIRED THE CREATION OF FUND AS A RESULT OF A LAWSUIT

San Francisco, CA — The South Coast Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors selected the recipients of the \$1 million dollar, one-time fund Friday that was created by a settlement agreement between the District and two environmental organizations.

The Supplemental Environmental Projects fund, or SEP, was created by the Air District as part of a settlement agreement between Our Children's Earth Foundation and Communities for a Better Environment resulting from a September 2003 lawsuit that the two organizations filed against the District for mismanagement of the air pollution trading program called RECLAIM. The organizations alleged that the SCAQMD allowed participants of the trading program to avoid the federal Clean Air Act by calculating nitrogen oxide trading credits on an annual basis instead of a quarterly basis as required by law.

"This is a happy ending to an otherwise unhappy story," said Charlene Schachter, managing director of OCE, and a participant on the review panel that selected the recipient projects for funding. "We are thrilled that the funds are going to a variety of projects in the community that provide innovative approaches to pollution reduction," Schachter stated.

"We expect our regulatory agencies to follow the law and protect our communities, and we are happy that the results of this settlement will go into reducing pollution and encouraging cleaner technologies in a number of low income communities of color disproportionately impacted by pollution," said Scott Kuhn, Legal Director of Communities for a Better Environment.

A total of eight projects received funding from the District. The projects include efforts to install new diesel engines in boats operating in and around the Port of Los Angeles, compressed natural gas trolleys that will be purchased and operated in the city and San Fernando and the installation of solar panels on housing units in South Los Angeles.

“With this support from the Supplemental Environmental Projects fund, The Enterprise Foundation will be able to incorporate solar systems in the rehabilitation of homes in South Los Angeles through the BP Solar Neighbors Program,” said Ann Sewill, Vice President and California Director for The Enterprise Foundation. “When The Enterprise Foundation and BP Solar provide a solar system to a low-income family purchasing an Enterprise Home Ownership Partners home, we’re lowering their household expenses and getting them one step closer to financial stability,” she concluded.

“These funds will allow the City of San Fernando to purchase CNG trolleys which will provide much needed public transportation in the downtown area, reduce pollution in our community, and move the City of San Fernando one step closer to its goal of replacing its entire fleet of city vehicles with natural gas vehicles within 10 years,” stated Edwin Galvez, Director of Public Works for the city. Galvez continued, “in conjunction with the CNG vehicles, a CNG fueling station will also be added that will encourage the public to purchase and use CNG vehicles, and this will further support the reduction of pollution.”

More information is available from the District at www.aqmd.gov/hb/2004/04117a.html

Our Children’s Earth Foundation is a San Francisco-based non-profit organization that works to protect the public, especially children, from the health impacts of pollution and other environmental hazards. www.ocefoundation.org

Communities for a Better Environment is a statewide non-profit environmental health and justice organization based in California. www.cbecal.org

Supplemental Environmental Projects Funded:

- SeaBoard Marine (City of Redondo) – Replacing auxiliary engine on marine with a new, emission certified engine, \$16,900.
- SeaBoard Marine (Redondo Special) – Replacing auxiliary engine on marine with a new, emission certified engine, \$16,900.
- SeaBoard Marine (Caroline) – Replacing auxiliary engine on marine vessel with new, emission certified engine, \$18,900.
- SeaBoard Marine (Bottom Scratcher) – Replacing two auxiliary engines in the marine vessel with two new, emission-certified engines, \$33,500.
- City of San Fernando – Purchase of two compressed natural gas trolleys to be used for public transportation in the city, \$74,000.
- Seaboard Marine (South Bay Barge #1) – Replacing two auxiliary engines with two new, emission-certified engines, \$137,120.
- Reliable Wholesale Lumber – Repowering diesel engines in eight lumber loaders with new, Tier 2 emission-certified engines technologies, \$202,360.
- The Enterprise Foundation – Installation of solar energy systems on housing units in low-income neighborhoods of Los Angeles, \$500,320.

###